

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

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USSR (Estonia)

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SUBJECT

Air Bases and Other Military
Installations at Pärnu

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The former Estonian airfield at Pärnu (58° 23' N, 24° 30' E), which was enlarged during the first Russian occupation and expanded again by the Germans, is now being further developed by the Soviet Air Force. The airfield is located on the fields of Sauga, a state-controlled estate near the town of Pärnu. Late in the summer of 1947, from 800 to 900 planes were observed on the field. They were all of Russian types, ranging from bomber to fighter planes. The Shtormoviks (dive bombers) bore the marking "L-16".
2. A Russian base for hydroplanes has been established at the mouth of the Pärnu River. The number of planes observed on this base was approximately 200. Several of the planes were lying unassembled on the banks of the river. Hydroplanes are being used for patrol duties and there are often as many as three planes in the air at the same time. It is reported that another hydroplane base is being constructed further up the river.
3. Soldiers and pilots of the Air Force in the area live in barracks near the two bases. Shore guard units during the summer were stationed in tent villages near the hydroplane bases. The bulk of the Russian forces in Pärnu, consisting of infantry, is stationed in a large camp composed of bunkers on the fields of the Rein estate. The bunker buildings are three to four meters underground, with only the roofs above ground level.
4. A great many military motor cars, mainly trucks, are stationed in Pärnu. In order to conserve the tires, the vehicles have been raised on special ramps. About 700 cars were stationed on Schmidt Square and from 700 to 800 on the exhibition field. About 50 more cars were located in Strand Park and behind them were 60 guns of 76 mm size.

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